

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS
SERMON #2
TAKING CARE OF CREATION

Haciendo Negocios
Sermón Numero Dos
TENIENDO CUIDADO DE LA CREACIÓN

TAKING CARE OF BUSINESS SONG AND VIDEO CLIP

REVIEW

We have to take care of the business of life: creation, my life/body, time, money, abilities, testimony and the church.

Last week we looked at the underlying principle for this sermon series. The first person to correctly text the answer to this number will get a gift certificate to Katies Corner

I am looking for one word. Fill in the blank. Who's Business is it?

It's not my business, it all is _ _ _ _ business!

¡No son mis negocios, son los negocios de _ _ _ _!

Fill in the blank,

Psalm 24

1 The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;

2 for he founded it upon the seas
and established it upon the waters.

Salmos 24

Salmo de David.

*1 Del SEÑOR es la tierra y todo cuanto hay en ella,
el mundo y cuantos lo habitan;
2 porque él la afirmó sobre los mares,
la estableció sobre los ríos.*

It all is God's business. I am a steward!

¡Todos son los negocios de Dios. Soy un encargado!

Today we will wrestle with the question of

“Am I responsible for creation?”

<<*¿Soy responsable de la creación?*>>

Let me try to summarizing the extreme conservative position and extreme liberal position concerning the environment. I am painting with broad strokes and that is dangerous, so cut me some slack.

The extreme conservative position seems to be, let the environment serve us. "Don't worry about water & air quality, animals on the brink of extinction, wetlands and ozone depletion." Old growth trees don't matter so go ahead and clear-cut. It's not important if spotted owls and snaildarters become extinct

This position says we can trust people in big business to police themselves and we don't need people checking to see if they are polluting. They have resisted emission controls on cars and plants. One of the reasons that big businesses move to Mexico and other third world countries is that there is no OCEA there to make them keep the air and water clean. The result is that the environment of these countries is being polluted. Those who are hold this extreme position seem not to worry about the treatment of nuclear waste that remains radio-active for thousands of yeas. Making money is the most important thing.

On the other side of the spectrum is the extreme liberal position. It is as you would guess, just the opposite. For these plants and animals are as important or sometimes more important than human life. No cutting of old growth forests or even moderate forests. Get rid of logging all together. The owl's domain is more important than people; hence a lady lives in a redwood for a year. For these only electric cars should be allowed, because global warming is the number one issue in our world. They don't seem to want any human intrusion into nature, no killing animals for food or clothing should be permitted. These will do anything to protect a young whale or pregnant lobster, while supporting the right to kill unborn babies.

Extreme left.....Extreme right

Somewhere in the middle is where most of us are and for good reason, it represents a balanced Biblical view.

Follow along with me as we explore GOD'S VIEW OF CREATION AS REVEALED TO US IN THE GENESIS ACCOUNT.

Gen 1:26-30

Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them **rule over** the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and **over all** the creatures that move along the ground." So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. **God blessed them** and said to them, "Be **fruitful** and increase in number; **fill the earth and subdue it. Rule** over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground." Then God said, "**I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food. And to all the beasts of the earth and all the birds of the air and all the creatures that move on the ground-- everything that has the breath of life in it-- I give every green plant for food.**" And it was so.

Génesis 1:26-30 (Nueva Versión Internacional)

*y dijo: «Hagamos al *ser humano a nuestra imagen y semejanza. Que tenga dominio sobre los peces del mar, y sobre las aves del cielo; sobre los animales domésticos, sobre los animales salvajes,^[a] y sobre todos los reptiles que se arrastran por el suelo.»*

*Y Dios creó al ser humano a su imagen; lo creó a imagen de Dios. *Hombre y mujer los creó,*

y los bendijo con estas palabras: «Sean fructíferos y multiplíquense; llenen la tierra y sométanla; dominen a los peces del mar y a las aves del cielo, y a todos los reptiles que se arrastran por el suelo.»

También les dijo: «Yo les doy de la tierra todas las plantas que producen semilla y todos los árboles que dan fruto con semilla; todo esto les servirá de alimento.

30 Y doy la hierba verde como alimento a todas las fieras de la tierra, a todas las aves del cielo y a todos los seres vivientes que se arrastran por la tierra.» Y así sucedió.

Gen 2:15-18

The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to **work it and take care of it**. And the LORD God commanded the man, "You are free to eat from any tree in the garden; but you must not eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die." The LORD God said, "It is not good for the man to be alone. I will make a helper suitable for him."

Génesis 2:15-18 (Nueva Versión Internacional)

*15 Dios el SEÑOR tomó al hombre y lo puso en el jardín del Edén para que lo cultivara y lo cuidara,16 y le dio este mandato: «Puedes comer de todos los árboles del jardín,17 pero del árbol del conocimiento del bien y del mal no deberás comer. El día que de él comas, ciertamente morirás.»
18 Luego Dios el SEÑOR dijo: «No es bueno que el hombre esté solo. Voy a hacerle una ayuda adecuada.»*

Notice that this passage was before sin came into the world.

Taking care of God's creation means:

We are called to subdue and rule over the earth.

Somos llamados a dominar y gobernar la tierra.

This means to bring it under our control by force and will power. To keep it in order under our control. There is nothing easy about this idea of subduing and ruling over the earth.

Example:

The second law of thermo-dynamics, which deals primarily with the retention of heat or energy, says that in our world, everything goes from order to disorder unless energy is expended to maintain order.

I am not a scientist, and so I cannot prove this for the whole world, but I sure know, that for the kids rooms this is true. Without continue work and effort, the room goes from clean to messy.

Those of you who like to work in a garden will understand this. I can have a well weeded garden, organized and looking good. A week later without care my garden will be full of weeds and getting out of control.

Did you know that if Roses and Tulips are left on their own and are not cut and cared for they will become smaller and duller yearly? Humanity has a role to play in roses being brought into order and kept there. It takes a lot of work to keep a flower garden beautiful.

The law built within the universe tells us that unless a gardener puts energy into keeping the garden growing and ordered, it will soon dissolve into chaos.

God said, your job is to subdue, rule over, work and protect out earth.

How many of you enjoy planting a vegetable garden? Have you ever had your squash, pumpkin or cucumber plants go crazy and just take over the garden. These are called runners and they can run all over and run the other plants out. Without humans ruling over them, they go crazy.

The interesting thing is that now you can buy hybrid cucumber's, squash and pumpkin plants that have been genetically instructed to stay in their place. They are called space savor plants. Amazing. Some people think this is terrible, I think it's our job.

I just wonder if they can create children to stay in their place at the dinner table?

It is a tough job to rule over nature.

To rule, to have dominion over. Notice this authority is over "all the earth." However, this dominion is not an autonomous principle, but a principle of cooperation and service under the Lordship of God. It is a stewardship authority. We only have dominion when we are working in cooperation with the creator, our boss, God. Anytime we attempt to rule outside of the boundaries and principles that God has established we are in peril.

Harley needs to be ruled over for his own good. If he is allowed to do whatever he wants, his life is in danger. Who is the boss? We must be. We have to make sure he realizes that he is on the bottom of the pecking order, under the smallest of us; Travis and Trevor.

However, in the call to rule over Harley, there is also the call to protect and care for Harley. Cruelty to animals should never be tolerated, especially in the family of God that takes seriously our call to protect the environment.

We are called to work and protect the earth.

Somos llamados a cultivar y proteger la tierra.

The word—work is to till, plough or serve. We are also to protect or guard the earth.

In Gen. 2:15 The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Even in the Garden of Eden that God created, man had to work it. This gives me the idea that even in the Garden, it needed man's hand. And this is before the fall.

All the rest of the earth had to be ploughed and tilled and planted.

Man had to till, plant and care for his fields so that he would have food for his family.

Work, contrary to some people's faulty interpretation was not the curse. Before sin, the garden and all of creation required that we work to till, cultivate and protect it. Work is good for us.

Some are asking, then what did the curse mean, working by the sweat of your brow? Creation required humans work, organization and rule so that it would produce food and function properly. However, because of sin, the earth bears a curse and instead of it producing food easily, it requires much work and aggravation to produce food.

To fill up, to complete as in complete the creation of humanity.

Let me give you a couple of example of our calling to work and protect the earth.

In our earth are minerals that can be used for our good. There is iron ore, for thousands of years we have mined it and used to create metal objects. We mine coal and drill for oil. These supply energy to make electricity, heat and cool our homes, schools and churches. Gas makes our cars go. Aren't you happy about 3.13 a gallon?

God has blessed us with so many natural resources; however, we are responsible as caretakers or stewards of our natural resources. There is a lot of oil, gas, and iron ore, how many years worth is disputable. The earth is falling tomorrow folk say it's about to run out, and the don't worry about it folk say it's hundreds of years. But no one says natural resources are unlimited.

For instance there is not an endless supply of aluminum. It makes sense to recycle aluminum cans. Not to say anything about the space filled up and messed up dumping aluminum.

There is a plant in Florida called a Melleuca tree. It is not native, it is native in Australia. Because people wanted to get more land out of the wet lands for agricultural use, someone had the idea of importing this tree because it dries up the water. So they got a lot of seeds and flew over parts of Florida and spread them out. Well, now the plant is a major problem. It has pushed out native plants and creates an inhabitable environment or animals and birds, and a pain in the neck for humans because once it gets growing; it is hard to root out. This attempt to take for earth backfired.

God has called us to protect the environment not abuse it. Did you know that the word Eco as in Ecology and Eco system comes from the Greek word oikos which means house.

The environment is our house and we are called to take care of it.

The whole issue of global warming is difficult and needs balance.

We must take care of God creation because:

Tenemos que cuidarnos de la creación porque:

- 1. God commanded it!**
¡Dios lo ordenó!
- 2. Creation is “our house!”**
¡La creación es <<nuestra casa>>!
- 3. Creation is one element of general revelation!**
¡La creación es un elemento de la revelación general!

Rom 1:20

Since earliest times men have seen the earth and sky and all God made, and have known of his existence and great eternal power. So they will have no excuse [when they stand before God at Judgment Day].

Romanos 1:20 (Nueva Versión Internacional)

20 Porque desde la creación del mundo las cualidades invisibles de Dios, es decir, su eterno poder y su naturaleza divina, se perciben claramente a través de lo que él creó, de modo que nadie tiene excusa.

Paul says that creation tells the story of God. Theology calls this general revelation. Creation points people to God. Our care of creation influences what kind of a story it tells about our God. Especially to succeeding generations. I want them to be able to walk in undisturbed parks, wilderness areas and places like the Grand-canyon because these speak of God.

4. The care of creation is part of God's blessing! See Gen. 1:28

**La cuidado de la creación es parte de la bendición de Dios!
Mira a Génesis 1:28**

All of this follows God's blessing, in fact it forms his blessing.

Think of stewardship as a blessing instead of an unfortunate task that we are required to do.

APPLICATION

Dr. Grider in his [A Wesleyan Holiness Theology](#) suggests some ways to take care of God's creation.

- ❑ **Admit that we have an ecological problem.**
- ❑ **Read Genesis correctly**
- ❑ **Understand our Creation imperative**
- ❑ **Adopt a life-style of ecological discipline; conserve energy in the house and car, don't buy items that will increase trash and recycle.**

- ❑ *Confesar que tenemos un problema ecológico*
- ❑ *Leer Génesis correctamente*
- ❑ *Entender nuestro imperativo de la Creación*
- ❑ *Adoptar un estilo de vida de disciplina ecológico; conservar energía en la casa y el auto, no comprar cosas cuales aumentan basura y reciclar.*